



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

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**NOVEMBER 2021
UPDATE LETTER**



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite stories is a bit that comedian Jerry Clower used to tell about going coon hunting when he was a boy living in the Mississippi backwoods. In it, Clower tells about hunting late one night with a few of his neighbors—including Mister Barron and a man named John Eubanks who preferred to climb the tree and face off with the raccoon instead of shooting at it from the ground. One night, Clower said, their dogs treed a coon in the biggest sweet gum tree in the swamp—and John Eubanks insisted on climbing the tree to get the raccoon. The story goes,

John worked his way on up to the top of the tree, and he reached around, and he got a sharp stick, and he drew back, and he punched the coon! But it wasn't a coon. It was a lynx. We call 'em souped-up wildcats. And that thing attacked at John up in the top of that tree. You could hear John squalling! . . . The whole top of the tree was shaking! . . .

And John knew that Mister Barron toted a pistol in his belt and would shoot snakes with it, and he kept hollering, 'Woo! Shoot this thing! Have mercy! This thing is killing me! Shoot this thing!'

And Mister Barron said, 'John, I can't shoot up in there. I might hit you!'

And John said, 'Well just shoot up in here amongst us! One of us has got to have some relief!'

Anyone who has ever been stuck in a no-win situation knows a little what that feels like. In fact, the Arkansas Legislature can feel a little like that sometimes. Lawmakers, lobbyists, and bureaucrats start fighting like John and that wildcat until they're just about ready to tell the folks watching from the ground, "Get in here and do something! One of us has got to have some relief."

At the end of September the Arkansas House and Arkansas Senate convened in extended session. Almost out of the gate, tempers flared as lawmakers debated which types of legislation could or couldn't be considered under the rules for the extended session. One of the major points of contention was whether or not the rules let the legislature consider measures to restrict COVID-19 vaccine mandates in Arkansas.

To their credit, lawmakers agreed to deal with the issue of vaccine mandates, but it wasn't easy. There was a lot of arguing in the Arkansas House and Senate. A few lawmakers tried to derail or delay the measures using procedural rules.

During the debate, several state senators callously argued that if employees don't want to comply with vaccine mandates at work, then they should go get a different job, plain and simple. I wonder if they've thought about how hard it is for a single mom to drop everything and change careers when her family can't afford to miss even one paycheck. Even in the middle of a labor shortage where jobs are available, that kind of upheaval can be devastating for a family. One of our team members said the senators' remarks reminded him of the queen who, on being told the peasants didn't have any bread to eat, said, "Then let them eat cake."

Family Council did not testify on any of the proposals addressing vaccine mandates in Arkansas. We didn't have to, because voters showed up in droves to speak with their lawmakers. And now let me tell you a little more about the legislative session—and what we have planned for the coming months.



Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: STOP BEING SO MEAN

The Bible says we're supposed to pray for our elected officials, not crucify them. Jokes about Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi are just as wrong as the attacks on Donald Trump. It grieves me when I see Christians on social media who believe it is okay to imitate their favorite talk-show hosts by spewing venomous words like lethal weapons. Some people don't understand that both conservative and liberal talk show hosts are entertainers, and that imitating their sarcastic, caustic style is not the Christian thing to do.

Sadly, this type of behavior is not just confined to regular folks on social media. It is pretty prevalent in the Arkansas Legislature. I've been around the State Capitol for over 32 years, and when you visit with other "old-timers," every one of them will tell you the sad truth that the

Arkansas State Capitol is a much meaner place now than it used to be. This is a sad commentary in light of the fact that most of Arkansas' lawmakers claim to be evangelical Christians.

There is a big difference between fighting to defeat a bill and fighting to destroy the person sponsoring it. Elected officials have always disagreed and leveled personal attacks. While disagreements have been commonplace, personal attacks used to be rare and short-lived, but not anymore. If you can't win the debate, then go to the podium and put on a show for the video livestream, then insult your opponent off camera, and after that go online with half-truths and rally a bunch of people to assassinate their character. After that, do all you can do to defeat their legislation—no matter how good that legislation is.

Please don't misunderstand me. There are scores of statesmen and stateswomen at the State Capitol. In fact most Arkansas lawmakers are really good people. In some ways it's a lot like high school. You can have 20 great kids in a class, but four or five disrespectful ones can either lead others down the same path or they can make things so miserable for everyone else that good kids don't want to be there.

That's exactly what I'm hearing some people say. "I'm tired of this, and I don't want to be in the Arkansas Legislature anymore." Others who might make good lawmakers are turning down the invitation to run, because they don't want to put up with the personal attacks from people outside the legislature, and they don't want to deal with the lack of statesmanship inside the building.

This lack of civility and decorum didn't start with the legislature. It is a reflection of our world and the times. It just manifests itself more in the halls of government, because what's inside us tends to come out under pressure. If their hearts aren't right when the pressure comes, instead of statesmanship and civility, things degenerate pretty quickly into something more like a food-fight.

It's not the rare atheist or nonbeliever who is the source of the problem. They have their own problems. I'm talking about a problem caused by people who wrap themselves in the robes of Christianity and then set out not just to stop a bad law, but to inflict maximum pain and heartache on their political enemies. This is a far cry from showing them kindness and praying for them.

So, is there an answer? Yes, and it is pretty simple. Christians both in and out of the legislature need to behave as Christians. If they have a problem doing this, they should check in with the Holy Spirit. He can help.

Family Council's Long History on Exemptions From Vaccine Mandates in Arkansas

Family Council has a long history of working on exemptions from vaccine mandates in Arkansas. We don't oppose immunizations, but we do believe people's rights of conscience ought to be respected when it comes to getting a vaccine.

For many years, Arkansas law has required school-age children to be immunized. However, some families object to immunizations because of their faith or because of medical conditions that put their children at risk of serious side-effects. Arkansas law provided narrow exemptions for

those families. But in 2002 a series of federal court cases effectively did away with religious exemptions in Arkansas' immunization laws. As a result, in 2003 Family Council worked with our friends at the capitol and at the Arkansas Department of Health to rewrite the language about religious and philosophical exemptions for immunizations to comply with the federal court rulings. In the end, Arkansas was able to come up with a good law that generally ensured students would be immunized, but also contained solid

(continued on following page)

Family Council's Long History on Exemptions From Vaccine Mandates in Arkansas *(continued)*

exceptions for families who have a religious, philosophical, or medical objection to immunizations. Since 2003 different pieces of legislation have been drafted that would undermine those religious and philosophical exemptions. We have successfully stopped those efforts. Again, Family Council has no objection to vaccines or immunizations. We simply believe that state law should protect people from being forced to violate their conscience.

This year we have seen an unprecedented push to mandate COVID-19 vaccines. These mandates have been issued by federal officials in some instances and by large swaths of the private sector in other instances. Obviously, we don't want coronavirus to spread, but we need to accommodate individuals who have objections to these vaccines or who are at risk of serious side-effects from the vaccines. That's why our team has quietly worked since last summer to pro-

mote exemptions for Arkansans who decline the COVID-19 vaccine—whether at work, at school, or in other situations—and that's why we were pleased to work with legislators during the recent extended session to support good legislation that would provide those exemptions. I can't say that we got everything that we wanted, but we were able to support the passage of good legislation that moves Arkansas in the right direction and protects folks from some of the vaccine mandates that the Biden Administration, Walmart, Tyson, and others have touted. Keep reading to learn more about those measures.



Right: Sen. Kim Hammer (left) and Sen. Bob Ballinger (right) discuss legislation on the floor of the Arkansas Senate during debate in October over exemptions from COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Arkansas Legislature Gives Arkansans Some Relief From COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

During the Arkansas Legislature's extended session, lawmakers passed H.B. 1977 and S.B. 739 requiring employers provide accommodations for employees who decline the COVID-19 vaccine. Specifically, the law says that employees who choose not to get vaccinated have the option of regular testing for coronavirus, or they can provide a statement from a health-care provider verifying that they are immune to the virus.

In other words, your boss cannot fire you if you choose not to get vaccinated. Your boss may require you to take a COVID test no more than once per week to verify you don't have the virus, if you're unvaccinated. If you've already had the virus, you can provide your employer with a note from your doctor verifying that you have natural immunity.

The legislation isn't ideal. I know a lot of people believe it isn't right to require a person to get tested for COVID every week, but under the circumstances, it probably is the best Arkansas can do for now. Senators like Sen. Jonathan Dismang (R – Beebe), Sen. Jim Hendren (I – Gravette) and Sen. Jimmy Hickey (R – Texarkana) fought very hard to prevent this legislation from coming up for consideration at all—and

they almost succeeded. Sen. Dismang testified forcefully against exemptions for vaccine mandates while Sens. Hendren and Hickey argued that the Senate's procedural rules did not let the legislature debate the measures.

The federal government is forcing some employers to mandate vaccines in the workplace. In other cases, employers are choosing to mandate vaccines on their own. This legislation and other laws on the books provide a way around those mandates. Here's a quick summary:

- Act 999 of 2003 creates religious, philosophical, and medical exemptions from vaccine mandates for students. This makes it fairly easy for students to decline the COVID vaccine.
- H.B. 1977 and S.B. 739 of 2021 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton), Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark), and Rep. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers) help protect employees from vaccine mandates at work. The laws require employers to accept regular COVID-19 testing or proof of natural immunity from their employees in lieu of the vaccine.
- Act 1030 of 2021 by Sen. Trent Garner (R – El Dorado) and Rep. Justin Gonzalez (R – Okolona) protects Arkansans from being forced to show a COVID-19 "vaccine passport" to enter, travel, receive services, or be educated in Arkansas. Practically speaking, this means that stores, restaurants, hospitals, and other entities cannot deny services to people who haven't received the vaccine.

Together, these laws should give Arkansans some decent protections against COVID-19 vaccine mandates. The laws may not go as far as some would have liked, but people who want the vaccine will be able to get it, and people who don't want the vaccine won't be penalized. That's certainly a good start.



Left: Sen. Blake Johnson (R – Corning) presents legislation that would have provided religious, philosophical, and medical exemptions from COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Pro-Lifers Hold Gatherings, Prayer Vigils Outside Arkansas' Abortion Facilities

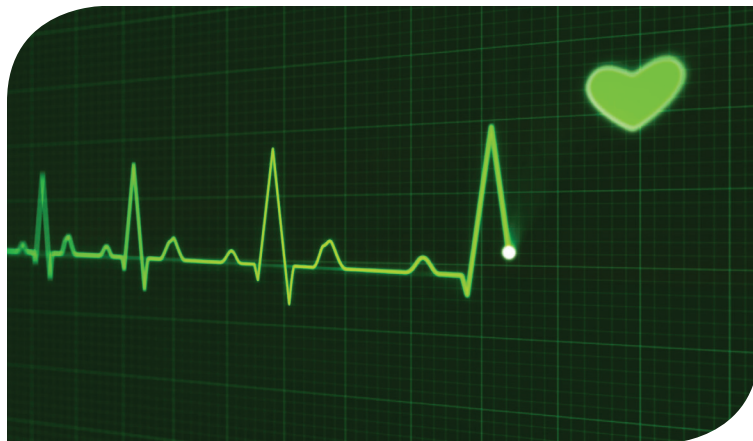
This fall hundreds of Arkansans have gathered outside abortion facilities in Arkansas to take a stand for life. In September, pro-lifers held a series of events outside the new Planned Parenthood facility in Rogers, Arkansas. The facility is not licensed to perform abortions yet, but Planned Parenthood hopes to begin performing abortions there very soon. Family Council President Jerry Cox was pleased to participate in and promote these events—along with other pro-life leaders in Arkansas.

Pro-lifers also conducted prayer vigils outside the Planned Parenthood facilities in Little Rock and Rogers as part of the semiannual 40 Days for Life campaign. Each spring and fall, Arkansans gather daily for 40 days outside abortion facilities to pray that abortion will end. Besides 40 Days for Life, there are also groups that gather regularly to pray and witness to women outside the surgical abortion facility in Little Rock. And on October 3, Arkansas held its annual Life Chain event across the state, where families gathered to protest against abortion.

Arkansas leads the nation in anti-abortion restrictions passed this year. Abortion in Arkansas has been in decline since the 1990s. As of 2020, Arkansas' abortion numbers remain near historic lows, and public opinion polling shows most Arkansans believe abortion ought to be completely illegal or legal only under certain circumstances. Slowly but surely, we're winning the fight to protect innocent human life in Arkansas.



Pro-lifers gathered outside Planned Parenthood in Rogers on September 19.



Passing a Texas-Style Heartbeat Law in Arkansas

By the time this letter reaches you, the Arkansas Legislature may have recently met in special session. One of our goals this year has been to pass a Texas-style "heartbeat" law that prevents abortion after an unborn baby's heartbeat is detected. You may recall in 2013 Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) sponsored a heartbeat law that prohibited abortion in Arkansas after the twelfth week of pregnancy if a fetal heartbeat is present. We were proud to support passage of that good law. Unfortunately, the federal courts overturned everything in that law except some of its informed-consent requirements for abortion. Similar laws have been overturned in other states. Texas was able to succeed, however, and their heartbeat law has been saving unborn children for weeks. Our team has studied the Texas law, and we have been working with lawmakers on an Arkansas-version of that law. Hopefully by the time this letter reaches you we will have made some progress implementing a pro-life measure like Texas' heartbeat law in our state.

Marianna Becomes Arkansas' Second Pro-Life City!

On October 12 the Marianna City Council passed a resolution affirming that the city is Pro-Life. Marianna is Arkansas' second Pro-Life City. The City of Springdale passed a similar resolution in 2019. This year Washington, Benton, Crawford, Cleburne, Pope, Jackson, Saline, Perry, and Faulkner counties have passed pro-life resolutions as well. Act 392 of 2021 affirms that municipalities in Arkansas can designate themselves as Pro-Life. Any community can pass a pro-life resolution like Marianna's. **If you would like to learn more about how you can pass a pro-life resolution in your community, give us a call at (501) 375-7000 or go to FamilyCouncil.org.**

Pro-Life
COMMUNITY

Pro-Lifers Allege Vehicle Nearly Struck Them Outside Abortion Facility

Over the summer, Family Council obtained multiple videos and police reports indicating pro-lifers have had close encounters with vehicles outside a surgical abortion facility in Little Rock. A Little Rock Police Department incident report from July 13, 2021, says,

OFFICERS WERE DISPATCHED TO 10825 HERMITAGE ROAD FOR A BATTERY REPORT. UPON ARRIVAL CONTACT WAS MADE WITH DENISE SHEWMAKE. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED SHE WAS STANDING ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF 4 OFFICE PARK DR. MS. SHEWMAKE STATED THE BUSINESS IS AN ABORTION CLINIC AND SHE STANDS OUTSIDE TO LET THE LADIES KNOW THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED AS SHE WAS STANDING ON THE SIDEWALK SHE HAD HER BACK FACING THE STREET. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED HER FRIEND, KIM PUSKA STATED "WATCH OUT SHE IS COMING". MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED THE OWNER OF THE BUSINESS, NATALIE TVEDTEN ATTEMPTED TO HIT HER WITH HER VEHICLE CAUSING HER TO FALL INTO THE LANDSCAPING. THERE WERE NO INJURIES SEEN ON MRS. SHEWMAKE. NO MEDICAL ATTENTION WAS NEEDED. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED THE VEHICLE DID NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH HER. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED SHE WAS ABLE TO JUMP OUT OF THE WAY IN TIME. MRS. SHEWMAKE STATED MRS. TVEDTEN MAKES THREATS TO THE "ABORTION PROTESTERS" ALL THE TIME ABOUT RUNNING THEM OVER WITH HER VEHICLE. CONTACT WAS MADE WITH MRS. TVEDTEN, SHE STATED SHE WAS PULLING INTO HER DRIVEWAY OF THE BUSINESS AND DID NOT SEE ANYONE IN THE DRIVEWAY. MRS. TVEDTEN STATED SHE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO HIT MRS. SHEWMAKE WITH HER VEHICLE.

Surveillance video footage from July 13 shows a dark vehicle jump the sidewalk outside the facility, coming dangerously close to Mrs. Shewmake. Video footage from the morning of September 7, 2021, shows what appears to be

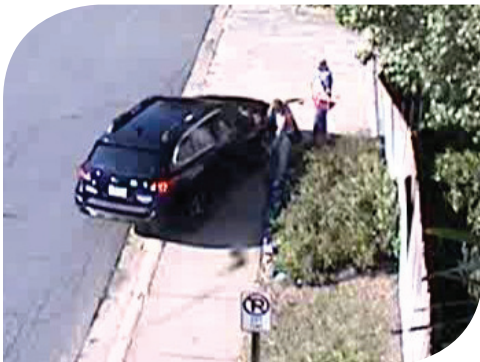
the same vehicle passing close to a person standing on the sidewalk outside the facility. And surveillance video footage from that afternoon on September 7, 2021, shows the vehicle stop abruptly before a woman who was crossing the facility's driveway.

A Little Rock Police Department incident report indicates that Natalie Tvedten allegedly was driving the vehicle that afternoon; Tvedten is one of the owners of the facility, according to court documents from 2020. The police report says,

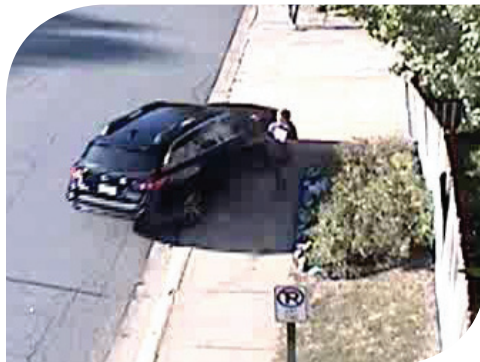
ON 09/09/2021 BECKY MATTHEWS REPORTED A HARASSMENT. MS. MATTHEWS STATED SHE WAS PRAYING OUTSIDE THE ABORTION CLINIC ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AT THE INCIDENT ADDRESS WITH MARY JO LEWNO. WHILE AT THE SCENE ON 09/07/2021 AT APPROXIMATELY 1425 HOURS, NATALIE TVEDTEN DROVE UP ON MS. MATTHEWS QUICKLY AND STARTED TO YELL OBSCENITIES AT HER. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED. MS. MATTHEWS WAS ADVISED TO SEEK A WARRANT AND AN ORDER OF PROTECTION.

Family Council also has obtained LRPD incident reports related to similar, alleged incidents outside the abortion facility since 2018. In a police report from March of 2018, Danny Gunderman told police that Tvedten's vehicle grazed his foot while he was standing on the corner of the sidewalk. A Little Rock Police Department incident report from June of 2020 indicates that a man outside the abortion facility alleged that he and others were nearly "run over" by Natalie Tvedten on May 19, May 29, and June 13 of that year. A different man reportedly alleged to LRPD that a vehicle nearly struck him outside the facility on February 5, 2021.

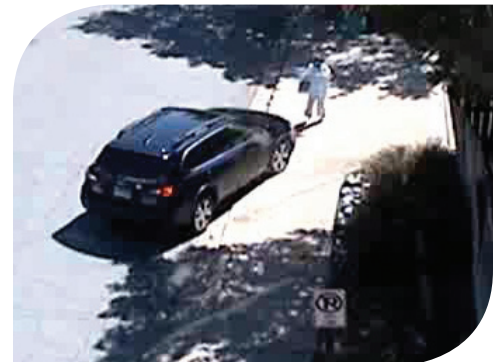
The police reports and surveillance video footage seem to indicate that pro-lifers have had several close calls with vehicles outside of Little Rock Family Planning Services. As of early October, authorities had not pursued any action against the facility's employees or owners as a result of these alleged incidents.



Above: Surveillance footage from shortly after 8:00 AM Tuesday, July 13, shows a dark vehicle jump the curb outside a Little Rock abortion facility, barely missing a pro-lifer standing there. The driver allegedly was one of the owners of the abortion facility.



Above: Surveillance footage from the morning of September 7 shows a vehicle pass very close to a woman standing on the sidewalk outside the facility.



Above: Surveillance footage from the afternoon of September 7 shows a close call with a vehicle outside the facility as a pro-lifer crossed the driveway using the public easement.



Sponsors and supporters of the SAFE Act gather at the capitol following the bill's passage in the Senate Public Health Committee last March.

Arkansas' SAFE Act Goes to Trial July 25, 2022

Recently U.S. District Judge James Moody announced that the lawsuit over Arkansas' Save Adolescents From Experimentation (SAFE) Act will go to trial sometime during the week of July 25, 2022. The Arkansas Legislature passed the SAFE Act last spring. It is an excellent law that protects children in Arkansas from sex-reassignment procedures, puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones. Researchers do not know the long term effects that puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones can have on kids. That is why many experts agree that giving puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to children is experimental, at best.

However, the ACLU and others filed a lawsuit against the SAFE Act. Last July U.S. District Judge Moody issued an initial order that blocks the state from enforcing this good law. Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge has appealed that order to the Eighth Circuit. In the meantime, the lawsuit over whether or not the SAFE Act is constitutional is progressing through the court system. Arkansas' SAFE Act is a good law that protects children. We believe courts ultimately will recognize that fact and uphold this good law as constitutional.

It May Seem Obvious, But Parents Aren't Terrorists

Author George Orwell is credited with saying that sometimes an intelligent man's first duty is to restate the obvious. With that in mind, it may seem obvious, but it is worth restating: Parents aren't terrorists. However, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and the U.S. Department of Justice recently issued a memo implying exactly that. By now we've all seen videos of parents chastising school board members for controversial decisions like instituting heavy-handed COVID-19 restrictions or promoting critical race theory to children. The parents' behavior hasn't always been appropriate, but then again, the school boards' handling of the situations hasn't always been appropriate either. In September the National School Boards Association wrote a letter to President Biden saying that some of these incidents were "equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes." In response, the U.S. Department of Justice announced in October that the FBI would work with local law enforcement and school boards to crack down on these parents. In other words, the federal DOJ seems to agree that these parents are behaving like domestic terrorists.

Take Action: Our justice system should not treat parents like terrorists. Please contact your elected officials, and politely ask them to take steps to ensure that parental rights are respected and that parents are not subjected to investigation simply because they are concerned about their public schools.



John Stonestreet, Author, Radio Host, and Director of the Colson Center

CHINA AND HOLLYWOOD

By John Stonestreet

In 2020, Chinese box office revenue officially surpassed that of North America. Shirli Li writes in the *Atlantic*, "Filmmakers and actors have always been subject to bosses who decide which movies get to soar at the box office....Now, more than ever before, that boss is Beijing."

Fast and Furious star John Cena demonstrated this deference in May when he posted a back-bending apology to China, in *Mandarin*, for calling Taiwan a country. Another example is the potential ban facing Marvel's *The Eternals* because its director, Chloé Zhao, criticized the Chinese Communist Party ... eight years ago.

Repeatedly, U.S. film companies posture as courageous defenders of human rights when they vocally oppose laws in states like Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. But then they're deafeningly silent about doing business in China, a country actively imprisoning more than one million Uyghur Muslims, hiding the presence of massive slave labor camps and no freedom of any kind when it comes to journalism. Hollywood, it seems, mostly just listens to the money.

The hope has always been that Western values would somehow infiltrate China and change it from the inside. But the opposite is happening. There's nothing like the allure of massive profit to drown out our collective conscience.

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Assistant Director
David Cox

Policy Points: Pew Research Shows Politics, Culture War Aren't Fueling a Mass Exodus From Church

By David Cox, Family Council

Contrary to popular belief, politics and the so-called “culture war” don’t seem to be driving people to abandon their Christian faith. That’s according to new findings that Pew Research published in September. Pew’s analysts examined American evangelicals along political and racial lines. Among other things, Pew found:

- There was no mass departure of White Americans from evangelical Protestantism between 2016 and 2020.
- There is no clear evidence that White evangelicals who opposed Trump were more likely than Trump supporters to leave the evangelical fold.
- The share of non-White U.S. adults who abandoned the born-again/evangelical label in recent years is offset by the share who adopted it.

The findings came as a bit of a shock to the pundits who have appointed themselves as the pallbearers and undertakers of evangelical Christianity. While most of us probably know someone who left church over politics and the “culture war,” those things just haven’t fueled the mass exodus that many predicted. It’s worth pointing out that what many people call the “culture war” isn’t new in Christianity. Churches have opposed abortion and infanticide for the better part of the past 1,900 years. Believers have affirmed that marriage ought to be the union of one man to one woman since the lifetimes of the apostles. Christians have addressed these difficult topics and others for two millennia. Maybe that’s why they don’t seem to be fueling a mass exodus from evangelical churches.

That said, it’s also important to remember that we don’t measure success by church attendance. Obviously, we never want people to abandon the faith. We want people to go to church, but the Great Commission is to go and make disciples—not simply to fill pews. As Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote during the rise of Nazi Germany, discipleship is costly. Churches should be willing to stand up for what is right no matter the cost—even if it prompts people to leave or switch to a more “progressive” church. That’s a difficult principle that Christians have addressed for the past two thousand years as well.

Science Continues to Show Marijuana is Harmful

Across the board, researchers continue to sound the alarm about the dangers of marijuana. In a recent column in the *Wall Street Journal*, Dr. Eric Voth writes, “There exists clear medical evidence of increased psychiatric difficulties with marijuana use, including violence, psychosis, schizophrenia, manic episodes, worsening depression and suicide.” Dr. Voth is not alone. Over the summer, NBC News published a report regarding the link between high-potency marijuana and psychotic episodes and vomiting. A study published in the September issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* indicates that adults under age 45 who frequently

use marijuana are roughly twice as likely to suffer from a heart attack as adults who do not use marijuana. The study’s authors even observed that marijuana’s association with heart attack appeared to be similar to tobacco’s association with heart attack. A recent study out of California found a link between heavy marijuana use during pregnancy and negative health outcomes among children. Other researchers have found marijuana use fuels self-harm among young men. The list goes on and on. All of this underscores what we have said for years: Marijuana may be many things, but “harmless” simply is not one of them.

Arkansas Lottery Still Paying Pennies on the Dollar to Scholarships: Financial Reports

Since the state’s new fiscal year began on July 1, government financial reports show the Arkansas Lottery has budgeted approximately 16.8% of its revenue for college scholarships and 69.1% for prizes paid to lottery players. For perspective, the typical state lottery budgets approximately 25%–

30% of its revenue for education and about 60% for prizes. The Arkansas Lottery could pay millions of dollars more to scholarships every year if it simply would reduce its prize budget and raise its scholarship budget. Unfortunately, the Lottery has shown little interest in doing that.

Don't Forget Giving Tuesday On November 30!

Giving Tuesday is coming up on November 30, 2021. This is a day that Americans pause to focus on helping nonprofits and charities. Last year our friends across the state pulled together and very generously donated more than \$47,000 in support of our Giving Tuesday campaign. It was far and away one of the most successful fundraising drives we've ever done, but it wouldn't have happened without good friends like you. I can't tell you enough what a tremendous blessing those gifts were! They helped us get through a year full of challenges. They empowered us to prepare our team ahead of the 2021 legislative session. They helped us

equip families all over Arkansas. This year, we've had some very generous donors pledge \$15,000 as part of a matching challenge gift for Giving Tuesday. We are looking for friends around the state who will help us match this \$15,000 pledge, dollar-for-dollar. I hope you will consider making a generous, tax-deductible donation on November 30, if you are able. Look for more information about Giving Tuesday on our website or in our weekly email alerts. If you aren't on our email list, send us a message at info@familycouncil.org, and we will add you to it.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

One of the questions we hear from folks is, "What can we do to help?"

Here are four things that you can do to help partner with me and my team in the work of Family Council.

- **Pray For Us:** Your prayers and kind words mean everything to us. We even have a team of people we call on to pray when challenges arise. Please ask God to give us strength and wisdom. If you would like to be part of our prayer team, call Erin Hogan on our team at 501-375-7000.
- **Support Us On Giving Tuesday:** Your financial support keeps us in the fight for traditional family values. Some very generous donors have pledged \$15,000 as part of a challenge gift for Giving Tuesday this year on November 30. I hope you will help us meet this \$15,000 goal on November 30, if you are able.
- **Consider Donating Stock or Other Assets:** Occasionally we have friends who want to donate assets such as stock, bonds, mutual fund shares, and so forth. Sometimes there are tax advantages to donating these assets to a nonprofit like Family Council. Other folks have donated vehicles and other property to Family Council. Enclosed is a flyer with a little more information about these types of donations. If you are interested in supporting Family Council in this way, call Luke McCoy on our team at 501-375-7000.
- **Keep An Open Line of Communication With Your Lawmakers:** I cannot tell you enough what a difference it makes when citizens contact their state legislators about issues. It makes it so much easier for us to promote pro-family policies! If you want to be part of our Rapid Response Team that communicates with lawmakers, give us a call at 501-375-7000.

Thank you for your friendship and support. I wish I had time to meet face-to-face with everyone who helps us. Then I could tell you about how much your support lets us accomplish in Arkansas. Please call us any time if there's ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,
 Thank you!!
Jerry Cox, President

P.S. We've been keeping a close eye on the Arkansas Legislature. Family Council has quietly supported efforts to give folks relief from COVID-19 vaccine mandates. We're also working with people around the state who want to pass a Pro-Life resolution in their city or county. Thanks to Arkansas' No Patient Left Alone Act, we've been able to help a number of folks who have been told they cannot visit their loved one in the hospital or nursing home due to COVID restrictions. Thank you for standing with us!